SUBJECTS.

granted, at least with regard to the reclamations previous to the order dated 9th May 1909.

Dewan's reply.—His Highness'Government had been feeling, for some time, that the time had come when, in the general public interests, reclamations from rivers, back-waters and canals—especially navigable ones—should be discouraged, not encouraged. Also, it was felt that, in most cases, these reclamations were very valuable, and the old *tharavila* of Rupee one (since raised to Rs. 3)was considered to be far too low for valuable lands like these. Hence the Government passed their order of May 1909 fixing a minimum *tharavila* of Rupees 25 per acre for *all* reclamations from back-waters, since extended to reclamations from rivers and canals also. In view, however, to the some-what different conditions of the Vembanad lake, the Government have recently reduced the minimum *tharavila* on the wet lands reclaimed from this lake from Rs. 25 to Rs. 15 per acre, and it has also been provided that, where the *tharavila* due by a single registry-holder exceeds Rs. 1,000, it may be paid in five equal yearly instalments. In regard to the prohibitory Notification issued, at the instance of the Madras Government, by His Highness' Government, some years ago, against reclamations in certain areas of the Vembanad lake, His Highness' Government have been in communication with the Madras Government for some time, and there is every reason to hope for a substantial modification of the prohibition, such as would permit reclamations in this area more freely than hitherto.

6. The inhabitants of the taluk are generally poor, and in consequence of the levy of *tharavila* at a minimum of Rs. 3 per acre, rising up to Rs. 100, and also of *thadivila* for *puduval* lands, the people do not go in for their registry and foreigners get hold of them for the cultivation of rubber, etc : some remedial measures should be effected to redress these grievances.

Mr. Ouseph Eippa (Member, Thodupuzha taluk) stated that, till 1084, the *tharavila* on one acre was only 7 fanams, but now the minimum *tharavila* has been fixed at Rs. 3 rising to a maximum of Rs. 100. The soil in the Thodupuzha taluk generally was not productive and the cultivators did not get from their lands enough to pay the taxes at the present rate, deducting the expenses of the cultivation, and in consequence, the people did not care to register *puduvals*. The lands had to be auctioned and foreigners got possession of these for the cultivation of rubber. The people, who mainly lived on the produce of the lands, were put to great suffering for want of lands to cultivate, and he prayed therefore that some remedial measures should be effected in this direction.

On being asked by the Dewan to give particular instances in which such grants of lands had been made by the Government to foreigners for the cultivation of rubber, the Member was unable to cite instances.

7. Irregularities and hardships connected with the registry of *puduval* lands and the measures for remedying the same.

Mr. Aiyyappen Narayanan (Member, Kottarakara taluk) represented that most parts of the Pathanapuram and Kottarakara taluks were hilly and major portions of them

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